

FROM TOWN AND COUNTRY.

From Our Own
Correspondents

BLOEMHOF.

Mr. Benzion Shein, when visiting Bloemhof for the Keren Hayesod, called upon the boys and girls of the Jewish community to organise a Young Israel Society. At a meeting held at the Synagogue on Sabbath, January 3rd, Mr. Shein lectured to the young folk. Mr. Carson offered his assistance in the matter, and thanked Mr. Shein for organising the society, which he hoped would prove a credit to all concerned. The following were elected:—Master Mayer Altshuler (chairman), Miss Mary Kowalsky (treasurer), and Miss Ida Altshuler (hon. secretary).

BETHULIE, O.F.S.

On December 21st, at a party to celebrate the Barmitzvah of Israel, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Ben, a cake was sold by American auction and realised £6, which has been handed in equal shares to the Jewish National Fund and Orphans' Fund.

In addition, donations amounting to £2 12s. 6d. were made to the National Fund on the occasion by the members of the Barmitzvah's family.

HARRISMITH.

A fancy dress ball, organised by the Harrismith Young Israel Society, was held on December 16th, and proved an unqualified success. The hall was artistically decorated. The president, Mr. Aaron Levy, and the secretary, Miss Rosie Kaplan, were responsible for the successful arrangements.

The judges for the evening were Miss R. Kellen (Pretoria) and Mr. Leo Sammel. The first prize was awarded to Miss Annie Sneider ("Mermaid"). Miss Beckie Kaplan scored second prize ("Persian Dancer"); Miss Lily Sneider ("Green Moth") third prize. A special prize was awarded to Mrs. A. Steinberg ("Black and White"). The first prize for gentlemen was awarded to Mr. George Davidson ("The Sheik"); Mr. Aaron Levy, the president, carried off the second prize ("Scotchman"); Master I. Levy was awarded a special prize as "Felix."

An amount of £25 was realised. The president and committee wish to thank all the ladies who sent refreshments, and the following gentlemen for donating the prizes:—Messrs. Kaminsky, Leo Sammel, W. Chodos, A. Levy, O. H. Rosenberg, H. Herring, and B. Legum. The prizes were distributed by Miss R. Kellen. The president, in a few well chosen words, thanked the judges and the public for their unstinted support.

KROONSTAD.

On Saturday, December 20th, the Barmitzvah of Master Michael Kaplan, the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Kaplan, was celebrated. The parents have been keen Zionist workers for many years, Mr. Kaplan being Chairman of the Kroonstad Zionist Society. Master Michael is a very keen scholar, both in public school and Jewish subjects, and promises to follow his parents' ambitions for the good of the national cause.

Master Michael beautifully intoned a portion of the Law and *Haphtorah* on Saturday morning at the Kroonstad Synagogue, where many friends attended. After service, the congregants adjourned to the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Kaplan for *B'rocha*. On Sunday evening, Mr. and Mrs. Kaplan and Master Michael were "At Home," and practically all the members of the Jewish community came to wish the parents and the Barmitzvah a "Mazeltov."

As the day was "National Fund Day," the opportunity was taken to make a collection for the National Fund. A *Bezalet* picture of "Jeremiah the Prophet" was put up by American auction, the auctioneer being Mr. Hearn. The picture was bought for £20 by Mr. Chaim Kaplan, uncle of the Barmitzvah. It was decided that the name of Master Michael Kaplan be inscribed for this sum in the Golden Book.

All the guests spent a very enjoyable evening till a late hour, when the singing of "Hatikvah" concluded a memorable event.

MIDDELBURG (Cape Province).

The December collection of the Middeldburg (Cape) branch of the United South African Jewish Relief Fund, amounting to £3 14s., has been forwarded to the Head Office in Johannesburg by Miss J. Seinker, the energetic local hon. secretary of the Fund branch, for which the Executive Committee are very grateful.

MIDDELBURG (Transvaal).

At the annual general meeting of the Zionist Society, which was held in the Synagogue on December 4th, Mr. N. Brozin was re-elected President, whilst Mrs. A. Schmahmann was appointed Hon. Treasurer. Mrs. Schmahmann,

who is the outgoing Hon. Secretary, is succeeded in that position by Mrs. Dr. Levitt.

On the 21st ultimo, a well-attended Chanukah service was held at the Synagogue, at which the Rev. Bayever officiated.

On the 28th ultimo, Mr. and Mrs. A. Schmahmann celebrated the thirteenth birthday of their daughter, Malschi, by giving a Hebrew concert, in which thirteen children, dressed in Jewish national costumes, took part. The concert began with the singing of the *Hatikvah*, followed with *Shir Hadgalim*, which was sung by the choir. The song *S'oo Zion* was rendered by Oscar Schmahmann. Special mention must be made of Moses Bloom, who rendered so nicely the song *Shom Bimkom Arozim*. A recitation, entitled "A Jewish Home," was rendered by Osra Voigt. The song of Chanukah (by L. Kipnis) was rendered delightfully by eight children, who each kindled the lights separately, meanwhile relating the whole story of Chanukah. Other items were rendered by Ester Wolkin, Sophie Schmahmann, Polly Bloom, Miss M. Brozin, and a toe dance by Malschi and Sophie Schmahmann and Polly Bloom. At the end of the evening little Malschi Schmahmann thanked the visitors in Hebrew for their congratulations.

Great credit is due to Rev. Bayever for training the children to learn these delightful Hebrew songs.

NAMAQUALAND.

The Namaqualand Hebrew Congregation has handed to the Zionist Federation, per the Namaqualand Zionist Association, the amount of £10 1s. 6d. for Zionist Funds, being a portion of offerings made during the High Festivals.

PAULPIETERSBURG.

On the 27th ultimo, the Bris Melah of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Klotz took place. The minister of the Piet Retief Hebrew Congregation officiated. Mr. J. Levinrad took the opportunity of offering for sale some Jewish National Fund calendars, which realised £1 6s. 6d. for the National Fund, including £1 1s. contributed by Mr. W. Klotz for a wall calendar.

PRETORIA.

Although the Pretoria Young Israel Society has not been as active during the last three months as in previous months, it has by no means gone to sleep, and the success of the few affairs that were given shows that interest in it has not abated in the least. During September the new committee began its session. The result of the new elections were:—Chairman, Mr. S. Levin, vice-chairman, Mr. O. Galgut; treasurer, Mr. S. Bliss; joint hon. secretaries, Miss F. E. Shurl and Mr. M. Goldberg; committee, Misses C. Wolson, M. Wolson, R. Meyers, E. Bliss and Mr. A. Zaidel.

On September 27th a very successful hat debate took place. The members thoroughly entered into the spirit of the debate and very lively discussions ensued. On November 8th a club recreation evening was held, which was also very successful, the members thoroughly enjoying themselves. This affair was followed by a lecture, given by Mr. J. Alexander, of the S.A. Zionist Federation, on November 31st. He delivered an inspiring address on "The Jews of To-day," which was much appreciated by a large audience.

PORT ELIZABETH.

The Zionist ball, organised by the Ladies' Zionist League, at the New Humewood Café ball-room, was one of the most outstanding functions of the season. Close upon 300 dancers filled the beautiful and spacious hall, charmingly decorated with national flags and Zionist colours. The dancing arrangements were admirable, and the music left nothing to be desired. Both socially and financially it was a distinct success, and I understand that the National Fund will benefit through it to an approximate amount of £40.

The floral dance, organised by our Young Zionists, and reported in your last issue, was such a success that a repeat of the same function was given last week, which proved no less a success than the original dance.

The last function of the Jewish Literary and Dramatic Society was devoted to the hearing and discussion of a paper read by Miss M. Luntz on "Past and Present Music." The excellent paper, splendidly delivered, was profusely interspersed with charming illustrations, both vocal and instrumental.

(Continued on next page.)

FROM TOWN AND COUNTRY (Continued).

SALISBURY.

The local Zionist Society has forwarded to the Zionist Federation £14, being proceeds of a recent auction sale.

The distribution of prizes to the successful pupils attending the Congregational Hebrew and Religion Classes took place on Sunday, December the 24th, at the Guildhall. There was a very good attendance of both parents and children. Mr. L. Braude (president Hebrew Congregation) presided, and Mrs. B. I. Hoffman (wife of the vice-president) presented the prizes. Rev. Rosin presented the report of the year's work. In the course of his remarks he drew attention to the necessity of regular attendance, the importance of the Hebrew language, and the co-operation of parents with the teacher. He stated that the examiners were highly pleased with the results in every standard.

The following were the successful candidates:—Advanced readers infant class—(1) Albert Hatchuel, (2) Cecil Stein, (3) Rachel Picha. (Miss Rosin's Class.) Reader's class, under Rev. Rosin's personal supervision—(1) Stanly Jones, (2) Louis Cohen, (3) tie, Hyman Koefman and Lesly Jacobson. Lower Hebrew class (teacher, Rev. Rosin)—(1) Joseph Pichanick, (2) Silvia Cohen, (3) N. Myers. Higher Hebrew class (Rev. Rosin, teacher)—(1) Joseph Levien, (2) Hy. Pichanick, (3) B. Rosenberg.

A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Rosin on the motion of Mr. Braude, president, seconded by Mr. Stein, treasurer. The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mrs. Hoffman and the chairman. The ladies' society liberally served sweets and cakes.

The annual general meeting of the Zionist Society was held on Sunday evening, the 21st December, at the Guildhall, followed by a social and dance. There were about 60 ladies and gentlemen present. Mr. L. Braude, chairman, presided, and delivered his report of the year's work.

The election of officers resulted as follows:—L. Braude, president; P. Bloom, vice-president; B. I. Hoffman, treasurer; Rev. Rosin, hon. secretary; H. Pichanick, assistant hon. secretary; committee, Mesdames Rosin, Bloom, Harris, and Shapiro, Messrs. H. Shapiro, I. Losovsky, and H. Hatchuel.

Mr. Braude presented the noted book, "Songs of Solomon," bought of Dr. Goldstein, to be sold by American auction. Mr. P. Bloom acted as auctioneer. The sum realised for the Jewish National Fund was £14 9s. 6d.

The Rev. J. J. and Mrs. Rosin have received news by cable to the effect that their eldest son, Isidore, who was a medical student at Trinity College, Dublin, has passed, and fully qualified as M.B., Ch.B., B.A., B.A.O., Dublin University, and L.M., Coomb Hospital, Dublin, taking third place in his final with distinction.

Dr. Rosin is an old pupil of the Jeppe High School, Johannesburg, where he matriculated. When only 16 years old he entered the University of the Witwatersrand as a medical student. In his second year of study he was the only successful candidate in gaining the Dublin University Exhibition Scholarship, and proceeded to Ireland a little over three years ago. His career at Trinity has been a brilliant one. Dr. Rosin's ultimate intention is to specialise as a surgeon.

SHABANI, RHODESIA.

Mr. M. Herman made a Chanukah collection for the Jewish National Fund amongst the members of the local Hebrew congregation and secured the amount of £10 8s. 6d., which amount has duly reached the S.A. Zionist Federation. Details will be found in our acknowledgment columns.

"Where Is Our National Home?"

From "A Jewish South African" (Cape Town)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZIONIST RECORD.

SIR,—I have had the privilege of reading your leading article on "The Hebrew University" in the *Zionist Record* of January 2nd, and I have been urged to reflect on the future position in South Africa.

We who have been born at the end of last century, or in the first quarter of the present one, in South Africa, a country of free speech and free religion, are in as different a position relatively to our parents and grandparents born in Eastern Europe. Practically the only tie binding us as members of a common race is our religion, and even this tie is fast becoming severed. We have taken our education—scholastic and religious—as a matter of course; in fact, the former is compulsory.

I doubt if we realise fully that our parents had to struggle, often to the point of death or exile, to maintain their religion, and that education was to them something unusual. But we are also living in an age of Zionism. In our time has come the opportunity of rebuilding a "National Home" in Palestine. What, and where, sir, is our "National Home?" I maintain that South Africa, the land of our birth and of our children must be looked upon as our national home. We have received fair treatment and a fair share of all the country can offer. It is our duty, therefore, to help to solve the country's problems.

You, sir, say that "only in Palestine is there no dominant alien culture to claim authority." Already we have Jews in South Africa who have won fame in the political, judicial, and artistic walks of life. Why should not we, their successors, add to what they have done? Our contemporaries will be non-Jewish South Africans, likewise born and educated in an age in which the political past is not the fulcrum, in which the ideal of a South African nation will be more than ever an accomplished fact. Ours will be a South African culture, based on mutual respect and self respect. Every Jew or Jewess born and educated in South Africa should remain here, do his or her utmost to carry out the requirements of South African citizenship. We must be Jewish South Africans before we become South African Jews.

You, sir, are too severe in speaking of "the fragments being ground by alien ideas and alien faiths." For us, the coming generation, there will be no "alien ideas" in the sense you mean, for we will become part of a South Africa in which the ideas are our "own" also.—I am, etc.,

"A Jewish South African."

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